Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Soviet Ambassador Receives CDR's 28 Sep Award

FL090426 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0332 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The 28 September Award was presented today to Aleksandr Kapto, member of the CPSU Central Committee and ambassador to Cuba.

This is the first time a foreign citizen has received the highest award presented by the national directorate of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR]. The honor has been received by 1,005 CDR members for fullfilling the tasks of the organization. CDR National Coordinator Armando Acosta Cordero conferred the medal on the Soviet ambassador for his achievements in strengthening friendship between the two states.

Kapto expressed his appreciation for the honor and he said that relations between Cuba and the USSR have never before been at such a high level. He said this is due to the meetings held in Moscow by the highest leaders Fidel Castro and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Science Meeting With GDR Opens in Havana

FL040325 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] The participants of the opening session of the 19th session of the Cuba-GDR science subcommittee have discussed bilateral relations in the scientific-technical field including exchanges, training, and comprehensive development programs until the year 2000. The meeting was held in Havana and was presided over by Ismael Clark, vice president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, and Felix Krause, deputy minister for science and technology of the GDR. [Words indistinct] the development reached by our country in the field of science which has received world recognition. He added that they will do everything possible to achieve more successes. The meeting ends tomorrow with the signing of an agreement which includes the work plan up to 1989.

International Biotechnology Workshop Begins

FL081936 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Report by Belkis Joglar]

[Text] Approximately 20 countries are participating in the Biotechnology Workshop for Latin American and Caribbean Countries which began its sessions today at the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in this capital. Mr (Fernando Sauso), deputy director general of UNIDO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, speaks to us on the actual possibilities of developing biotechnology on our continent.

[Begin (Sauso) recording] I think that Cuba is rather developed in production, research, and theoretical and practical work. It is a leading country in biotechnology in Latin America, in the developed countries. So it seems to me that we are not talking about potential here, but rather an actual fact. Cuba's development in biotechnology and in other areas as well, is a fact. [end recording]

Mr (Irvin Gonzalo), director of the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, will arrive in Cuba this afternoon. The center has 40 member countries, 12 of which are from Central and South America; 4 are affiliated members, among them Cuba, Brazil, and Venezuela.

Vice Foreign Minister Mazola Visits Iraq

FL081530 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text]Vice Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola has met in Baghdad with 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council. They discussed bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

Mongolian Official on Visit; Invited by UJC

FL050402 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Tserendorjiyn Narangerel, member of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, of the People's Great Hural Presidium, and first secretary of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth League, is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Committee of the Union of Young Communists [UJC]. The distinguished guest will meet various young workers and students as well as their grass root leaders. He will also tour places of economic, social, and historic interest in provinces such as Cienfuegos, Santiago de Cuba, and Havana City. He will have a close look at Cuban projects in the fields of science and technology and health, and the use of the youth's free time, among other areas of interest.

Indian Parliamentary Official Visits

Meets With Viera

FL021553 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Jose Viera has received Dr Balram Jakhar, speaker of India's House of the People, at the Cuban Foreign Ministry in Havana. Jakhar is heading a delegation from India which is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

In welcoming the distinguished guest and his delegation, Viera said the state of bilateral relations is excellent.

The delegation of Indian parliamentarians will fulfill an extensive program of activities, including visits to historic, economic, and social centers.

Meets With Adolfo Diaz

FL031456 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Balram Jakhar, president of India's Lok Sabha, the House of the People, has met with Adolfo Diaz, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and agriculture minister.

The distinguished visitor and his delegation visited the Agriculture Ministry [words indistinct] functions of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The Indian parliamentarian expressed interest in the institution's research, the effect of the drought on crops, and Cuba's use of irrigation systems.

The Cuban minister briefed Jakhar on the research on the citrus, rice, and tobacco industries. He also told him about institutions responsible for animal health. Other topics discussed at the meeting included the problem of soil salinity and the planting of vegetables.

Meets With Castro

FL040204 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Balram Jakhar, president of India's House of the People, termed as constructive and beneficial for both countries the talks he held with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro hours before ending his visit to Cuba this afternoon.

[Begin Jakhar recording, in English fading into consecutive Spanish translation] It is of great importance because he is the maximum authority and he is so highly regarded in international circles. Also, because there are feelings of friendship between India and Cuba. The president was kind in showing his wishes of friendship and extending his greetings to the leader of my country. We feel that same respect for him. [end recording]

Balram Jakhar arrived in Cuba last Sunday at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Jakhar met with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, PCC Politburo member, this morning. He visited a project where a minibrigade was at work in Havana and other places of social interest.

Seen Off by Aguirre

FL040242 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Balram Jakhar, president of India's House of the People, departed this afternoon after paying a visit to Cuba for almost 4 days. The distinguished guest was seen off at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the Peoples' Government [ANPP], and Deputy Ramon Pez Ferro, chief of the ANPP International Relations Department, among other officials.

Balram Jakhar and the delegation accompanying him were invited to Cuba by the ANPP. They visited various places of economic, political, and social interest. They also held official talks with Jose Viera, first vice foreign minister, and Adolfo Diaz, minister of agriculture, and with other representatives of the Cuban state.

Saharan Minister, Colombian Communist Arrive

FL061457 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Mansour Omar, foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, arrived in our country last night on a friendly visit. The distinguished visitor is a member of the Politburo of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front. He was met at the Havana airport by Jorge Marente [as heard] Caballero, director of the North America Directorate and other MINREX [Ministry of Foreign Relations] officials.

Omar will visit areas of economic, industrial, and social interest while he is in Havana. He will hold official talks at the Cuban Foreign Ministry and the PCC Central Committee.

Gilberto Vieira, secretary general of the Communist Party of Colombia, also arrived on the same flight at the invitation of the Central Committee. Manuel Pinerio Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the America Department, received the Colombian leader who will be in Havana for a few days.

W. Saharans Visit Havana, Isle of Youth

Education Minister Tours

FL081426 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The 536 students of the (Vladimir Komarov) basic secondary school on the Isle of Youth have marked the Day of the Saharan Pioneer. The celebration was attended by Jose R. Fernandez and Seyyed Ahmad Batal, education ministers of Cuba and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], respectively. The students demonstrated their artistic talents in a moving performance during which they sang and danced typical dances. They also chanted their war slogans which call to the fight to defend the homeland, freedom, and unity. The SDAR education minister had a friendly conversation with the students who are training to be future professionals in Cuba. Also present were Armando Manresa, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC Municipal Committee in Isle of Youth, and Salem Sidi Brahim, SDAR ambassador to Cuba.

Foreign Minister Confers

FL091450 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Mansour Omar, foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, has been received by Isidoro Malmierca, member of the PCC Central Committee and Cuban foreign minister. During the meeting held at the Cuban Foreign Ministry offices, the two parties reviewed bilateral relations, exchanged views on the international situation—especially in the Middle East and Latin America—and condemned the aggressiveness of U.S. policies.

Further on Castro Speech to Artists, Writers

FL030255 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Jan 88

["Excerpts" of President Fidel Castro's 28 January speech at closing session of the fourth congress of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists held at Havana's Palace of Conventions—recorded]

[Text] Let's not make the mistake—it should not happen—of denying man what he needs. We cannot make the mistake of falling into egalitarianism. We have made that mistake at times. We must use mechanisms but the big mistake here was to believe mechanisms solved everything miraculously as in capitalism and that development and socialism were created by spontaneous combustion. Fortunately, Che, whom we love and admire so much for setting an example and because of his integrity, was concerned a lot about these matters and was able to foresee some of the things that happened. He said: Don't start playing with those mechanisms because they later acquire a strength of their own and become uncontrollable. They really began to become uncontrollable. This is why we said we are going to control this.

I was telling the economists when I explained to them the rectification problem in this same room: We know that there is venom. We are still handling the serpent. We play the flute and put it to sleep, we take care of it, we grab it, because we know where it has its fangs and venom. We have not been promoting extremist formulas. I believe the revolution is mature enough and experienced enough to spare extremes. You know that happened in other countries. Surely, many of these things happened. There were demagogues who agitated the masses against others, even against intellectuals, and against officials. So, they had to be taken out. You cannot have a St Bartholomew's massacre of officials or of bureaucrats. It would not be hard to create one. All that would have to be done would be to agitate a little and say: This one is to blame for everything when it is true that he is partially at fault. You can imagine if it was said: You do not have a house because of this bureaucrat; you do not have water because of this bureaucrat; you lack this and that because of this bureaucrat; this book has not been published because of this bureaucrat. What if they say later: Death to bureaucrats! They would be killed. [laughter] They would kill them. Some countries had that experience. We are carrying out our rectification process without being hasty, without extremes, without demagoguery. We are doing it slowly but based on solid foundations. We know that we have almost started. So, this fourth congress has taken place under these circumstances.

I believe that we have spoken and discussed matters very seriously. All problems have been brought forth. Some of these problems are not easily resolved but I am certain we will find answers. You will not be sorry for the work you have done. You will not be sorry for the things that have been suggested here. I am sure we are finding solutions to many other problems. Since we are guided by good intentions and ambitious, strategic ideas, I believe we will find solutions to our shortcomings, errors, and limitations in this field. In the same way we will also find solutions in other fields. I am sure of that.

It was said that many things have happened since the meeting with intellectuals was held. Today new contingents emerge vigorously despite all our limitations. Back then, we were engrossed in the battle against illiteracy in the midst of the mercenary invasion which took place the same year. If back then it was said that many minds were being lost, it would be difficult to say today that a single mind is wasted in our country in terms of culture and art. It would be very difficult to say that. Despite the tragedy of the school that was never completed but is going to be completed, I believe that even the situation in that school will improve. After the meeting with students in which they presented their problems—they had problems but they were not as serious—they explained the problems with physical facilities [base material], especially at the arts school. They explained the resources they were lacking, the difficulties they were experiencing. We already knew it. Some 3 years ago I sent a group of comrades to visit all art schools. Their situation in general was pretty bad in the whole country. They collected all the information. I have it in a computer. I have the data in a computer. It includes the number of schools and students we have, what each one of them is studying, and the problems they have. Some things were done to help them a little but they have have poor physical facilities.

I was telling you earlier that when these schools began to be built, these vocational art schools and professional art schools—that was around 1975—all these ideas were being considered. All schools, not only art schools—other schools were being built; vocational schools, even some physical education schools—everything that was being built in 1975 had not been completed in 1985. Nothing had been completed. Notice to what extent it had deteriorated.

Schools used to be built every 4 to 5 months. Schools, such as the Lenin School, with room for 4,500 students were built in 2 years. The Naval Academy school is still being built. Art schools had that problem. They have poor physical facilities. We discussed that at the students' meeting when they explained the school problems. Art schools were not the only ones with that problem. Some agriculture technical schools had those kinds of problems. The arts and trade schools explained their

problems forcefuly. Of course, each province wanted to have one of their own. One wanted an (?ESPA) because each province wanted to have champions. Others mentioned other schools, art schools were among them. I hope that this rectification process... [changes thought] With the new construction capabilities the country is getting... [sentence unfinished] I told [name indistinct] let's give a little more priority to the trade school because that school was essential for a few thousand kids. It is very important to them.

I believe the time has come to pay close attention to those facilities. Work is being done. I hope that at this stage those schools can acquire better physical facilities and the necessary resources. I can say—because I know it and have information on it—that art schools are the cinderellas of our educational system. We have a debt with that National School of the Arts. I do not know if it will have the best building in the long run but in the end students will be able to say: Now, we can finally say this is the best school of the arts in Latin America with a branch in Santiago de Cuba. It is fair enough to have an art school branch in Santiago de Cuba. [applause] It seems that it is a fair request.

I believe it is nothing extraordinary. These problems will be solved, we will do more although I cannot guarantee what will be discussed at the next congress. We will work hard;we are all very committed to this work and to find the answers. We must come up with serious answers, efficient answers to this problem, well-thought-out answers.

The Hermanos Sainz Association comrades invited me—I will try very hard to participate in the meeting they will hold [applause]. (?There is much interest.) I will do everything possible to keep in touch, to continue thinking, receiving information, and working. All my life I have defended the principle of not waiting. That is, nobody should think that we will leave problems for the Greek calends. We have never left a problem for the Greek calends, and we have always attempted to solve them as soon as possible; many times, faster than what is believed.

I believe the problems brought forth here guarantee a greater development of our art and our culture. I believe we will find answers. The day could also come when perhaps we will have less dissatisfaction. I have already said that we will never be totally satisfied. I believe that even if the UNEAC comrades do perfect work, we will do more. There will always be things left to do. That optimum level is never reached. Today's optimum level does not necessarily have to be tomorrow's optimum level. With each problem that is solved, new ones arise, there are new demands of life.

But I know what you want. You want a more satisfying job. I know you truly want our country to become a cultural power. It can be one. I will not go into details, but I believe that the freedom and possibilities to become that power par excellence are only possible with the revolution and should only be achieved with socialism. [applause] Something is wrong if it is not achieved with socialism.

The problem must be recognized and rectified. Something said to the intellectuals back then can be repeated today. That is that no one should be afraid of the revolution. We used to say revolution and now we can say revolution and socialism. We do not strangle creative freedom because revolution and socialism were precisely created to guarantee that freedom. We will never be henchmen. Socialism will not be that. On the contrary, the reason for existing is to raise to the maximum level man's abilities, its possibilities. It is to raise to its highest level man's freedom, not only in form but also in substance. "Fatherland or death, we will win!" [applause]

Code Amendment To Consider Rehabilitation

FL091533 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The State Committee for Labor and Social Security is working on a Labor Code amendment proposal which will provide for the rehabilitation of workers who have been penalized and, because of their good behavior, have earned the right to rehabilitation. The spirit of that amendment proposal is in line with the policies of the party and the government as expressed several times by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro who has said the most important part of society is man.

Self-Audits at Work Centers To Begin in April

FL060002 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] When the day comes that every Cuban thinks of our country's assets as his own and cares for and uses them accordingly, we will have taken a giant step forward in the march of our society. But until then, to move down that road will increasingly bring improvements to our economy, both as a nation and as individuals. This thought has been suggested to us by the recently held meeting of the State Committee for Finance, during which the committee workers engaged in the control of our capital's enterprises, were briefed as to the coming efforts which must be made. We are referring to the self-audits in each work center, a basic battle in the struggle for control of resources and for responsible accounts, which reflects quality and efficiency.

These self-audits were conducted in October 1986 at 28,000 centers with the assistance of the workers in each enterprise. A control study was made of material, financial, and human resources, and this made it possible to note deficiencies, draft the plans to be pursued, and set

the deadlines for these plans. It made a large number of workers aware that they were responsible for everything done in the enterprise, and this awareness was taken to the production assemblies.

The audits in Havana City Province were important and led to a rating of deficient or bad for 60 percent of the centers analyzed. This was food for thought for those in charge of managing and making decisions at each enterprise.

Self-audits will begin on 16 April in the same centers audited in 1986, following seminars at the municipalities and the work centers, along with the revival of the working groups in each of these places. This way they will be able to ascertain what deficiencies have been overcome, what goals have not been met and why, and the new objectives. In guaranteeing this task, the trade union and community-based organizations of the Union of Young Communists have an important role to play in each work center.

Briefs

First Brain Cell Transplant

The first brain cell transplant has been performed in Cuba on a female patient from Matanzas who suffered from Parkinson's disease. The surgery was performed at Havana's Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital with Dr Hilda Molina as chief surgeon. This is the third surgery of its kind performed in the world. The patient is reportedly progressing satisfactorily. [Excerpt] *[Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 88 FL]*

Tourist Price Violations

Matanzas people's inspectors detected nearly 360 price violations in the tourism and miscellaneous retailing enterprises in Varadero Municipality during 1987. The infraction index was 14 percent over the national average and is the highest figure recorded ever in Matanzas. [Text] *[Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2029 GMT 29 Jan 88 FL]*

Barbados

Relations With Haitian President Vetoed

FL091840 Bridgetown CANA in English 1810 GMT 9 Feb 88

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 9, CANA—Barbados said on Tuesday it does not recognise the government of new Haitian President Leslie Manigat and will push for a suspension of the country's observer status within the Caribbean Community.

Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford told Parliament that any rapprochement with the Haiti Government was conditional upon steps by the Haitian authorities to "institute processes of genuine democracy". "Evidence of clear and positive signs in this direction will evoke a sympathetic response from Barbados," he said. Sandiford also froze diplomatic relations with Port-au-Prince with his decision not to facilitate an exchange of ambassadors by the two countries.

Pointing to the low voter turn-out and reports of widespread irregularities in the controversial January 17 election, Sandiford said Barbados did not consider the results of the poll "as the legitimate expression of the will of the people of Haiti".

"(Barbados) does not recognise the government which has emerged from those elections as being genuinely representative of the broad masses of the Haitian population," he said. Besides urging its Caricom partners to suspend Haiti's observer status on the Caricom Labour, Education, Agriculture and Health Ministerial committees, Sandiford said Barbados would also advise Caricom against extending this relationship "under the present circumstances".

Sandiford also declared Barbados' willingness to work with its Caricom partners and other countries to promote democracy and economic development in the impoverished French Caribbean state.

Barbados, which established diplomatic relations with Haiti in June 1972, had repeatedly said it would not recognise any Haitian Government emerging from a flawed electoral process. In fact, Sandiford repeated that Barbados would have liked a postponement of the January 17 poll to permit changes that would have added credibility to the process. So far, Jamaica is the only Caricom country to have clearly expressed support for the Manigat administration. Grenada said it felt he should be given a chance.

Haiti

Senate Unanimously Elects Prime Minister

FL100203 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] ...At approximately 1430 today, Tuesday, 10 February [as heard] the Senate unanimously elected attorney (Martial Celestin) prime minister of Haiti, as stipulated in the Constitution.

The executive branch of the government—that is, the president elected in last 17 January's elections and sworn in on Sunday, 7 February—this morning sent the Senate a letter proposing Mr (Celestin) as prime minister. The Senate elected him to be prime minister and govern alongside President Leslie Manigat.

In his thank you speech to the Senate, attorney (Celestin) was so moved that he could not avoid shedding a few tears. He said he was thinking of his mother. [passage omitted] The new prime minister will appear before the Chamber of Deputies shortly for ratification of his position.

What we can tell you straight off about Mr (Celestin) is that he is a lawyer who has practiced in Port-au-Prince. He has been a member of the bar and president of the order of attorneys of Port-au-Prince. He is also a member of the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats]. We will tell you more about him in subsequent newscasts.

Relations With Dominican Republic Normalizing
FL092220 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Haitian-Dominican relations are in the process of normalizing, Dominican Vice President Carlos Morales Troncoso said.

Noting the Haitian people's efforts to lay the foundations of a real and effective democracy in Haiti, Morales Troncoso said that the Dominican Government hoped to see progress and public freedoms consolidated in Haiti.

In a meeting with Haitian President Leslie Manigat, Morales Troncoso pointed out the projects that Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer is implementing to improve the living conditions of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic. He said that considerable progress has been made in improving conditions for agricultural workers, particularly in the camps at sugar refineries. Free health care programs have been introduced in the main sugar centers and a general plan aimed at lowering the cost of living has been drafted, the Dominican official said.

Morales Troncoso also said that President Balaguer's main concern is the cane cutters' situation and, thanks to him, significant progress has been made over the past 18 months, especially in the social sphere. In this connection, Morales Troncoso gave as an example the substantial increase in the salaries of sugar workers, following an increase in the price of the cut ton of sugarcane.

According to the Dominican vice-president, Manigat is a confirmed democrat concerned with respect for public freedoms and the supremacy of the human being and he will be able to count on international cooperation with his efforts to deepen and consolidate democracy in Haiti.

Finally, the Dominican Government representative declared that with the advent of this new government, relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic will be much closer, centered on faith within solidarity and on mutual cooperation. Mr Morales Troncoso was the highest-ranking foreign representative at the inauguration of President Manigat.

Radio Metropole Reports Release of FNC Member
FL092246 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] We have just learned that (Etzer Dorsainvil) was released at noon today. This was reported by (Dorsainvil's) lawyer (Moyse Senatus). (Dorsainvil) is the coordinator of the Liaison of the Democratic Forces [He is also a member of the National Concerted Action Front, FNC, and president of the National Federation of Unemployed Qualified Technicians, FENATECH]. He was arrested on 31 January by civilians and had not been heard from until now. (Dorsainvil) was also arrested at the end of 1987 and later released.

Anglican Church Calls for Reconciliation
FL022311 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The Anglican Orthodox Church has published a statement on the situation in Haiti in which it calls for reason, dialogue, and reconciliation. According to the Anglican Church, never in its history has Haiti had such an opportunity or such a potential for common well-being and democracy.

The Anglican Church feels that we have—and I quote: On the one hand, a superb democratic accord, made up of structured political parties, with, at their heads, men of exceptional intellectual, moral, and patriotic qualities; and on the other hand, a political party and its leader possessing these same qualities which have come to power.

Perhaps they haven't come to power under the best of conditions, as we would have liked, admits the Anglican Church. But it adds: Given Haiti's current political circumstances, only a compromise is possible. No one can win all the way down the line.

In conclusion, the Anglican Church says it hopes the opposition in place will organize so that it can become a constructive opposition for the new government, while giving the new government the time to prove itself.

Military Repression in Raboteau Denounced
FL050008 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Report from Gonaives correspondent (Bruno Edgard)]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The attitude of the military is attracting the people's attention. The center of Gonaives is calm. There is no problem there although there are military all over the streets.

The Raboteau section, however, is like an arsenal. The Army put a police post there some 3 months ago. That police post serves as all kinds of things; as a barracks, a prison, and even a court. They will arrest you and beat

you at the drop of a hat. This occurs in the Raboteau area. They arrest you without a warrant! What is worse, they enter people's homes with bayonets in one hand and revolvers in the other.

Yesterday, for example, in Raboteau, a soldier entered the home of one of two citizens with whom he had had a simple argument. He did not find the man, but we wonder what would have happened had the soldier found him. The soldier entered the house with a bayonet in one hand and a revolver in the other. He demanded that the man's relatives bring him to the police post. And what happens when you go there? You will either be beaten or receive a few blows from a rifle butt, depending on how serious what you did was. They are the judges.

Citizens in Raboteau have told us that if you refuse to serve as a spy for them, if you refuse to act as an informer for them, you are considered the enemy of the military.

However, another citizen of Raboteau told us that he is not willing to tolerate the military's entering his house for just any old reason, because that's what courts are for; and that if a member of the Armed Forces has to enter a home, he should have a justice of the peace with him; and that if a member of the Armed Forces has to arrest someone, he must have a warrant.

That is not the way things are done in Raboteau. The military do whatever they please. They do whatever they can get away with. Raboteau is under terrible pressure from the military. It is important for national public opinion to know about this.

This is (Bruno Edgard) from Gonaives for Radio Metropole.

Sugar Workers Protest Delay in Opening Mill

FL092111 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The sugarcane season, which usually begins at the end of December, has not yet begun and HASCO [Haitian-American Sugar Company] workers are protesting today in the sugar mill's yard. We have a reporter on the scene.

[Reporter] [passage omitted] We have with us some HASCO union members, including union Vice-President (Wilfrid Ciceron), Assistant Secretary (Luckner Felix), and HASCO worker (Pepe Bouzi). They will tell our listeners why they have assembled in the mill's courtyard to protest and contest certain conditions.

[Reporter, in Creole] We will listen to (Luckner Felix), so he can tell us exactly what the problem is.

[(Felix)] [passage omitted] We have a collective contract with the company. The mill should have reopened after we signed this contract. But in August or September, when the mill claimed it was going bankrupt, the provisional government gave it a $2.4 million subsidy in the form of white sugar to support the 1980 harvest. The administration's position, Mr Mevs' position, is that he is not to open the season. This is not to the workers' advantage and that is why many of them are gathered here to protest.

[Reporter] What measures have you taken to find out exactly what the administration is planning to do?

[(Felix)] Well, all we have done is meet with them. They are planning to open the plant without giving the workers a raise. Our contract says that workers are to be given a raise once the mill opens. [passage omitted]

Ship Officials Report Waste Not Toxic

FL031421 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] In Gonaives, the big news is still the waste scandal.

The people in charge of the "Khian Sea," the ship at anchor in Gonaives harbor, from which a certain amount of waste has already been unloaded onto the SEDREN [not further identified] wharf, met the press Saturday to say that this waste was not toxic and did not present a danger to living things. According to the ship's authorities, the waste could be used to increase the fertility of the soil, to fill marshland, or to use as landfill for road repairs.

An analysis of this waste that the ship authorities showed the press revealed the presence of products such as arsenic, mercury, and chromium.

Asked why certain countries, such as Honduras, have refused to accept the cargo of waste, the ship's authorities could not say.

Files discovered by the press have revealed a contract was signed between the company furnishing the waste and private Haitian individuals living in Gonaives, who claimed to be livestock breeders.

The notice of importation for this waste talks about soil fertilizer, and speaks of 20 million tons of waste. According to the ship authorities, $25 are paid for each ton.

As for the Haitian authorities, three ministries—Commerce and Industry, Agriculture, and Justice—have already come out one after another in favor of stopping the unloading of this waste and in favor of having it put back on the ship. They want the persons responsible punished for this operation, which is forbidden by the Constitution of 1987. [passage omitted]

Linked to Army Officer

FL031538 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] There is a stand off between Haiti's Justice Ministry and some elements of the Army over a shipment of toxic waste. The shipment is said to have belonged to a company

owned by an influential military officer, Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, and his brothers who are ignoring a government order to get rid of the toxic waste.

It all began 2 weeks ago when a boat transporting tons of waste arrived in the seaport of Gonaives. Although legal documents declared the ship was transporting fertilizers, upon verification, port authorities realized the ship contained toxic waste. A stand off exists on the exact status of the waste.

Leaves Waste Behind

FL060206 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The ship "Khian Sea," which carries waste, left Gonaives harbor last night at approximately 0300 hours, leaving some 1,000 tons of waste on the SEDREN [not further indentified] wharf although Justice authorities had ordered the ship officials to load back on board all the waste scattered over the SEDREN wharf.

According to the explanation of the ship's authorities given well before their departure, 2,000 of the 3,000 tons of waste unloaded had already been put back on the ship. This was done over the last few days. There are therefore allegedly only some 1,000 tons of waste on Haitian soil.

According to our correspondent (Bruno Edgard), the ship was able to leave last night at approximately 0300 hours, having been given permission to do so by the military authorities in Gonaives.

Yet just yesterday, a Justice Ministry press release gave the "Khian Sea" until 16 February to load all the waste back on the ship and leave Gonaives harbor. In its press release, the Justice Ministry said that the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Gonaives had full responsibility for seeing that the measures taken against the "Khian Sea" were carried out. This has not been respected since the "Khian Sea" was able to leave last night.

Jamaica

Poll Results Support Decision on Haiti

FL300335 Bridgetown CANA in English 1757 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 29, CANA—A majority of Jamaicans back Prime Minister Edward Seaga's decision to support and work with new Haitian President Leslie Manigat, according to an opinion poll conducted here. The firm Market Research Services Limited (MRSL) said that 54 per cent of the persons it sampled supported the government's stance, 41 per cent would have preferred the isolation of the Haitian Government, and six per cent had no views.

According to Market Research's managing director, Don Anderson, the poll was conducted between January 22 and 24, after the controversial January 17 Haitian elections, widely condemned as a farce because of an estimated 10 per cent voter turn out and large scale irregularities.

The sample was 400 islandwide, well below the 1,500 of some of Market Research's previous surveys, but Anderson said it was highly representative guaranteeing the reliability of the data. In a previous MRSLI survey prior to the Haitian poll, 54 per cent felt that Caribbean governments should help to ensure fair elections in Haiti.

The next single largest bloc of 19.9 per cent felt that the region's governments should do nothing, while 7.6 per cent called for a condemnation of the military-led junta and a similar percentage said there should be dialogue with military leader, Henri Namphy.

Another 3.1 per cent favoured military intervention and 1.1 per cent said the region should act through the Organisation of American States.

The Jamaican Prime Minister, at odds with his Caribbean colleagues on the issue, is the only regional leader to formally announce recognition and support for the leader emerging from the Haiti election. The election was organised by a commission picked by the Haitian junta after it fired the independent group that planned the aborted poll of last November 29.

The independent body stopped the November poll when armed men, aligned to the former Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti, shot and hacked voters while the Army stoodby.

Alcoa Asks Levy Reduction for Bauxite Plant

FL060428 Bridgetown CANA in English 1626 GMT 5 Feb 88

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 5, CANA—Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga has described as completely unacceptable a demand by the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) for a sharp reduction in the local bauxite production levy.

Seaga also hinted that his government was willing to scrap its joint venture with Alcoa in an 800,000-tonne alumina refinery here, unless the American multinational gave firm assurances that it will continue to run the plant at maximum production and increase capacity. Jamaica's share in the plant is six per cent. Without the assurances it was obvious that Alcoa, for its own commercial reasons, would reduce production then shut down the refinery it is now battling to retake from a government company that leased it in 1985, Seaga said in a radio and television broadcast Thursday night. Once the commitments were given in a form acceptable to the government, Jamaica was willing to resume its joint venture enterprise, the prime minister said.

But Seaga declared: I do not propose to allow the Clarendon (south central Jamaica) plant to be run down or destroyed...We will take all necessary action to ensure that the future of the plant is secured and its contribution to the economy assured. It is our intention to ensure that the plant will continue to operate at full capacity and that the new mud lake (to replace the existing fast-filling storage for the waste left in alumina production) will be constructed. These are objectives which the government intends to secure. Some 800 persons are employed at the refinery.

Seaga said that in the negotiations, Alcoa has been demanding that the bauxite production levy be lowered so that it worked out at a rate of two dollars per tonne of bauxite against the current level of around 10 dollars. Alcoa has said that unless the government accedes to the levy reduction, which would be to a level far below the range being negotiated in the industry, it would not commit any investment to Jamaica. I am sure you will agree that this is completely unacceptable to the Government of Jamaica, Seaga said.

Seaga said that the application of the U.S.2 dollar levy to Alcoa, Alcan and Kaiser would lose the economy U.S.60 million dollars in foreign exchange and over J300 million dollars in government revenue.

Seaga said that Clarendon Alumina Productions (CAP), the government company that leased the plant in 1985 when Alcoa shut it down citing the soft market for metals, had made a profit while paying the full levy of some [word indistinct] the American transnational has been attempting to put presf, to the real motive behind Alcoa's action. [sentence as received]

Seaga accused Alcoa of arrogance in dealing with the government. He also pointed to legal proceedings begun by the multinational calling for the return of mining leases that were ceded to CAP and the removal of other obstacles to full control of the plant.

No matter how large a multinational company is, it has to obey the ordinary civilised rules of law in any country in which it operates. It is not above the law, Seaga said.

The Jamaica-Alcoa relationship has been on the slide since late last year when the government announced that the multinational had changed its mind about selling the plant to the government and wanted to reactivate the joint venture, suspended during CAP's lease of the refinery.

CAP had run the plant at full production—against less than 50 per cent by Alcoa before the closure—and said it had markets for the output up to 1994.

Jamaica's position is that if Alcoa came back, it had to be at full production with a commitment to expand and with the government having first lien on any alumina the American company did not want for itself.

Industry sources say that the government has significantly forward sold alumina against CAP production, particularly to financier and commodity trader, Marc Ritch. The Opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) has suggested that the Ritch factor was an important element in the quarrel with Alcoa. According to the party's mining spokesman, Easton Douglas, it has been reported that Ritch advanced to Jamaica U.S.150 million dollars against future alumina shipments. The government still has commitments to him, Douglas said. Ritch, who is wanted in the United States on tax charges, has not enjoyed the love of the transnational aluminiuma companies.

The PNP has called for dialogue with the government to work out a bipartisan policy on the bauxite/alumina industry, now plagued with problems. Douglas said among the issues facing the industry was a quarrel with the Soviet Union over the price for bauxite which could scuttle the deal.

Receivership Requested

FL0600430 Bridgetown CANA in English 1803 GMT 5 Feb 88

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 3, CANA—The Jamaica Government has asked the courts here to appoint an independent receiver to run the Alcoa Alumina Refinery on the island in which it has a six percent share.

The announcement by Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga Tuesday night was the latest twist to an increasingly complex dispute over who is now in control of the 800,000-tonne Alcoa plant that the government had leased in 1985. Alcoa insists that it on Monday regained full operational and commercial control of the plant with the expiry of the lease, but the government's Clarendon Alumina Productions (CAP), and the Jamaica Bauxite Mining Ltd (JBM) have commenced proceedings against Alcoa, seeking the appointment of an independent receiver to manage the mine properly and in the proper interest of the joint venture enterprise. That application is fully supported by the body of evidence, Seaga's statement said. JBM is a government company that holds Jamaica's six per cent interest in the Alcoa operations here.

In Tuesday night's statement, Seaga accused Alcoa of taking the law into their own hands by purporting to take physical control of the plant and had, among other things, misappropriated inventories belonging to CAP and carrying on mining operations without having a mining lease. Alcoa officials here declined comment on the latest development, except to deny that it was involved in any bauxite mining. Mining leases ceded to CAP, when it leased the refinery, have not been handed back and General Manager Gerry Dudley said that since Monday Alcoa had only been moving bauxite from stockpiles to feed the plant. We are not mining bauxite, Dudley said.

Meantime, the Opposition People's National Party (PNP) leader Michael Manley, has proposed an urgent meeting with Seaga to develop a bi-partisan strategy to deal with the current problems in the bauxite/alumina industry. We are prepared to meet with yourself and/or such members of the government you may wish to designate so that we may explore together how the country's benefits are best protected, Manley said in a letter to Seaga.

The aim would also be to prepare a broader plan for the industry that would allow this and future governments to proceed in the confidence that their activities will enjoy bi-partisan support, the former prime minister said. It was Manley's government in 1974 that introduced the bauxite production levy, which underpins much of the problem between Jamaica and Alcoa, and though less high profile, the other bauxite/alumina companies operating here. Under the system, the companies operating here pay for bauxite as a percentage of the average price realised by the American majors for primary aluminuma ingot. The compnaies argue that the levy, which averages six per cent of the price of primary ingot, makes Jamaica an expensive operational centre and have called for its removal or sharp reduction. They would prefer a regular post-profit taxation system.

Jamaica and Alcoa have been on a collision course since the American multinational late last year announced its intention to regain control of the plant after negotiations for its sale to the government collapsed, with both sides blaming each other.

Alcoa, under contract to CAP, had managed the day-to-day operations of the plant, which the government had ordered run at full production, though it had been shut down ostensibly because of the soft world aluminium market. The government, which says it has markets for all of the plant's production up to 1994—much of it apparently forward sold through commodity dealer Marc Ritch—charged that Alcoa only wanted to come back because of the success that has been made of the plant. The government says it fears that; Alcoa could take similar action to the 1985 shutdown and has sought concrete commitments for continued high production and plant expansion, with it having first lien on any production Alcoa did not want for itself.

Under their agreement Alcoa would only have to run the plant at existing capacity for a year after it resumes operations; and for six months the government through CAP would have the right to half of the plant's output. After that, the government would be entitled only to its six per cent share of the alumina ;under their joint venture agreement.

Some industry analysts say that Jamaica could be in a bind, following the rationalisation of the industry in recent years, to find alumina—at least at an attractive price—to meet its forward sale commitments. It was immediately unclear what would be the longer term effect of an independent receiver to run their joint venture, and Alcoa spokesmen at the corporate headquarters in Pittsburg said Wednesday that the whole issue was being assessed. Some analysts in Kingston point to a possible government move to take full control of the refinery.

What I read is that they don't like Alcoa's management and want to get us out, said one company source here, but stressing that he was not reflecting Alcoa's corporate position on the issue.

Lawyers are likely to meet in court Friday on the matter. Last month CAP gained a court injunction preventing Alcoa under the management contract from drawing down on nearly U.S.2 million dollars in credit for capital spending on the plant. CAP said the spending was unnecessary but Alcoa officials preferred to interpret the court action as part of efforts to prevent the American company from resuming control of the refinery.

Alcoa last week started court action to regain the mining leases and for a removal of all obstacles to its control of the refinery. Seaga chided Alcoa for its court action. These proceedings were entirely inappropriate for the determination of the issues between the parties and Alcoa has never served a single word of evidence in support of this application, Seaga said in Tuesday night's statement.

Trinidad and Tobago

Fishing Incidents Discussed With Venezuela

FL050038 Bridgetown CANA in English 1834 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 2, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Government has asked neighbouring Venezuela to avoid repetition of an incident last Saturday in which local fishermen were allegedly confronted by the Venezuelan Coast Guard.

A government statement said that following talks with south Trinidad fishermen, Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday has instructed Ambassador Christopher Thomas in Caracas to make appropriate representations and seek assurances that the incident would not be repeated. Fishermen complained that their vessels were stopped, fishing permits seized, and shots fired damaging the engine of one boat. The statement said Panday planned to visit the Venezuela north coast in the near future, apparently to discuss the situation.

Trinidad and Tobago is just eight miles from the Venezuelan coast, and fishing in each other's waters is governed by two agreements. A third will be signed soon. The proximity has often led to clashes between local fishermen and the Venezuelan Coast Guard.

President Inaugurates 11th Workers Congress
PA020401 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Report by Juan Manuel Pereira]

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid recognized the workers' contribution to the economic solidarity pact when he inaugurated the 11th Federal District Workers Federation Congress today. De la Madrid said justice and economic factors would not allow the popular classes' income levels to decrease. He stressed that defending workers' and peasants' real wages is important to the economic solidarity pact's ability to cut inflation. He also stressed that recovery of economic growth is not possible without a decrease in inflation.

[Begin recording] The government is fulfilling the measures it promised. The working sector continues to moderate salary demands. While some businessmen have acted against inflation, others need to double their efforts. This strategy to combat inflation relies not only on cleaning up public finances, but also on moderating excesses in some of Mexico's economic activities. [end recording]

President de la Madrid called on workers to double their efforts to monitor prices and said the government is willing to open its analyses and studies of prices and costs to make measures clear and justifiable.

The president was speaking at the inauguration of the 11th Federal District Workers Congress. He recognized the solidarity of the organized workers movement in times of economic difficulty and stressed that if it is true the majority's standard of living has been undermined, it is also true the structural changes designed to give society firmer and more lasting bases to recover its growth have been initiated. The congress reelected Joaquin Gamboa Pascoe as federation leader for another 6-year term.

CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] leader Fidel Velasquez noted at this event that in this political year his organization has decided to take its position, the revolution's position, and backs Carlos Salinas de Gortari's candidacy. He said the CTM will not only participate in the forthcoming elections for deputies and senators, but also in the elections for the Federal District's legislative assembly. Fidel Velasquez said the CTM is the government's best bastion today to defeat adversity.

Salinas de Gortari on Change, Foreign Debt
FL032146 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2257 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Frontera, Mexico, 2 Feb (NOTIMEX)—PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari warned today that if Mexico does not grow, the foreign debt will not be serviced, inasmuch as the Mexican people come before our financial commitments abroad.

Popular sector leaders here paid a call on Salinas de Gortari, who emphasized that Mexico has made impressive progress in international financial circles as regards the renegotiation of the foreign debt, on the basis of which it is acting. He later gave responses to the concerns of the young people of Tabasco about transforming the country and facing the difficult problems Mexico is experiencing. He noted that these changes will not go against our traditions and rule of law, nor will they hurry the pace of national life.

We are going to modernize the country, he explained, in order to create jobs and promote justice throughout the nation; in other words, we will promote a kind of justice that will apply equally to all, one that will not deal softly with those who have and harshly with those who have less. [passage omitted]

Labor Leader on Economic Pact 'Noncompliance'
PA091814 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Juan Guzman G.]

[Text] Fidel Velasquez, CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] leader and labor congress president, stated yesterday that the private sector's noncompliance with the Economic Solidarity Pact has resulted in "a high social cost," with a "run down" domestic market, and the agreement has been "practically broken."

CTM economic adviser Jorge Leypen Garay illustrated the above by noting that in relation to 1981, the domestic market has fallen 50 percent in terms of purchases of durable consumer goods and 10 percent with regard to food purchases, despite the fact that the population increased 17 percent during the past 6 years.

During his customary Monday interview, Velasquez stated that Hector Hernandez Cervantes, secretary of commerce and industrial development and one of the government representatives on the pact's follow-up and evaluation commission, "is not complying with" the pact because he is constantly authorizing price increases.

He noted, however, "this official's resignation is not my concern; it is the government's," and immediately stressed "what is most serious now is that Secofin [Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development] allows increases in the prices of basic products," such as oil, milk, bread, and tortillas.

He emphasized the need to "be careful that our domestic market does not continue to deteriorate because if we are not the time will come when we will be unable to talk about productivity, production, or employment because the market will no longer exist." He added that prices are becoming so high people will be unable to pay them when the market stabilizes.

Fidel Velasquez also stated that despite the high social cost of the private sector's noncompliance with the pact, the possibilities of social explosions in the country are remote because "the masses want to keep the peace, to keep working so Mexico can overcome this economic situation, and support the government to avoid social breakdown."

He added that union leaders "will never lead an armed movement," and that "they are doing everything possible to restore the purchasing power" to enable the masses to resist the crisis. Nevertheles, he stated that because of the crisis "we cannot have high inflation."

After condemning private enterprise and calling it "deceitful," the labor congress leader stated that "the government and the revolution itself have survived without the help of businessmen. Management can take the road it wants but the revolution's path is always free."

Velasquez also noted that the PRI presidential candidate's nonconformity as expressed during his political campaign "makes us assume there will not be a continuation of current policies. We trust there will be changes to allow the country to reach its level in the economic, social, and political spheres."

In conclusion, he announced a Labor Congress meeting for "Wednesday, 24 February (in the morning), to analyze the private sector's attitude regarding the Economic Solidarity Pact, which the government must make them comply with."

PJF Antidrug Operations in January Reported

FL291822 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0239 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Jan (NOTIMEX)—It has been officially announced that agents of the Federal Judicial Police [PJF] have so far this year arrested 800 people on drug trafficking charges and seized 14 tons of dried and baled marijuana, as well as 34 tons of opium paste.

Likewise, the PJF has located and destroyed 80 hectares planted with cannabis and 200 hectares planted with poppies in various operations throughout the country. This work is part of the on-going antidrug campaign and the "Pacific VIII" operation.

It was also announced that another stage will begin the 2d week of February in the manual fumigation program in Michoacan State. In addition to the PJF, 80 specially trained state judicial policemen will take part in this fumigation. The reason for this operation is that the poppy harvest begins at this time of the year and this way the police will be able to stop the drug traffickers from harvesting the crop.

Some 150 judicial policemen will take part in the antimarijuana drive in Michoacan. The marijuana harvest takes place at the end of the year.

Briefs

Domestic Debt Figures

According to figures released by the Bank of Mexico, the federal government's domestic debt was 24,130,500,000,000 pesos at the end of November 1987, an increase of 144.5 percent over the December 1986 level. Federal Treasury Certificates accounted for 94 percent of the total, a 182-percent increase over the previous year. [Summary] *[Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 18 Jan 88 pp 1, 7 PA]*

PEMEX Sales Income

PEMEX has announced that contrary to predictions, crude prices dropped in December to $13.86 per barrel, the average price of crude throughout the year was $16.25 per barrel, and the nation received $7.820 billion from sales. In mid-1987, when prices rose, PEMEX had calculated prices would increase to $18 per barrel in December, the average price throughout the year would be $16.50 per barrel, and income would be $8.2 billion. [Summary] *[Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Jan 88 p 8 PA]*

El Salvador

Coprefa Notes January Army, 'Rebel' Casualties

PA072100 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Coprefa report; date, place not given]

[Text] Clashes reported throughout the country during the month of January resulted in the deaths of 79 FMLN rebels and 48 soldiers. Salvadoran Army soldiers also recovered 74 rifles, 2 machineguns, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 1 LAW rocket launcher, 148 booby traps, 38 fragmentation grenades, more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 2 radios, and materiel for making bombs. During the same period of time, the terrorists murdered 14 civilians, injured 4, and kidnapped 21. Also, 7 peasants were killed and 23 seriously injured following the explosion of mines laid by the rebels in rural areas of the nation.

Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed and one injured on Saturday [30 January] afternoon while activating a mine near the Jocoaitique detour, Morazan Department.

The 1st Infantry Brigade reported the death of a terrorist during a clash near Platanillos canton, Quezaltepeque jurisdiction, La Libertad Department.

FMLN rebels raided Santa Maria farm, Ahuachapan juridisction, and burned at least 10 manzanas of sugarcane. Residents of the area reported that the terrorists raided the farm at approximately 2200 on Sunday and burned the 10 manzanas of sugarcane, causing much damage.

40 'Guerrillas' Killed 5 Feb

PA071705 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The Army said it killed 40 FMLN members following heavy fighting in the northern part of Morazan Department this morning. The Army report noted that forces from the 4th Military Detachment, which is headquartered in San Francisco Gotera, are fighting guerrilla units near Jocoaitique in northern Morazan.

According to the military report, 40 rebels and 2 soldiers have been killed, while 3 soldiers were wounded. The heaviest fighting is taking place at El Volcancillo, near Jocoaitique.

Meanwhile, Coprefa reported that Paratrooper Battalion units destroyed two guerrilla camps near Quebrada Seca, Usulutan Department, yesterday.

Briefs

Defense Ministry Notes Changes

According to a Defense Ministry report, Colonel Hector Heriberto Hernandez has been appointed chief of the General Traffic Department to replace Col Julio Cesar Benavides, retired. Col Hernandez, former commander of Military Detachment No 2 in Cabanas, will be replaced by Col Jose Emilio Chavez Caceres, former commander of Military Detachment No 7 in Ahuachapan. Col Luis Alonso Amaya Garcia is the new commander of Military Department No 7, after serving as commander of Atonal Battalion. He will be replaced by Col Ramon Alfonso Barrera. [Summary] *[San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 2 Feb 88 p 2 PA]*

Honduras

Lopez Contreras Says Nation Contra 'Sanctuary'

PA091228 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Report by journalist Edras Amado Lopez on interview with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras; date and place not given; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Lopez Contreras has publicly admitted that Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have used our national territory as a sanctuary. However, this administration has been denying this at various fora for a long time.

[Lopez Contreras]"Although we have clearly stated that the counterrevolution has used Honduran territory as its sanctuary, the truth is that not all of the contras are here; most of them are in Nicaraguan territory."

Lopez Contreras made this statement during a U.S. television interview on the effects of the House of Representatives' vote to reject contra military aid. The House rejected $36.25 million in contra aid that U.S. President Ronald Reagan had requested.

In the face of the decision by the House, Honduran sectors have expressed concern over the fate of the contras, a fate that may include many of them, armed and all, being left astray on Honduran territory.

However, Lopez Contreras reiterated that if the suspension of this aid forces the contras to remain in Honduras, the Azcona government will ask that they leave for a third country, possibly the United States.

[Lopez Contreras]"We would request that they leave for the United States or a third country, or that they return to Nicaragua [words indistinct] process of national reconciliation."

This is possible. However, Lopez Contreras noted that the United States has a moral responsibility to withdraw the contras from Honduras.

[Lopez Contreras]"It is possible. If the situation were to become desperate and there was a need to dismantle [the contra camps] due to a defeat in Nicaragua, I believe the U.S. Government would have a moral responsibility to take in the contras."

He also said this is a dangerous situation.

[Lopez Contreras]"It is a dangerous situation that can be seen from different perspectives. For example, while the White House considers military means to be the only way to attain democracy in Nicaragua, the majority of U.S. congressmen—at least the House majority, as seen yesterday—believe that U.S. security interests and the defense and democracy of Central America can be maintained by other means."

What did Lopez Contreras think about that?

[Lopez Contreras]"I believe the U.S. Congress cannot avoid its historic responsibility; thus, regardless of the means employed, it must safeguard freedom in Central America, as well as its security interests, as a great nation, in Latin America."

Human Rights Group Rejects Regalado Charges

PA081326 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 6 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee today termed as "irresponsible" the charges General Humberto Regalado made about the existence of a subversive plan. Gen Regalado, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, stated the charges on Friday, 5 February.

According to the committee, the accusation is "irresponsible, a provocation, intolerable, and it implies the intention of justifying future murders."

The committee also points out that Regalado's accusations against several citizens of being organizers and advisers of guerrillas cells are "groundless charges and contribute to further weakening the already weak democracy in Honduras."

The human rights committee adds that such remarks contribute to "reinforcing among international opinion the belief that Honduras is ruled by a regime of state terrorism that systematically violates the law."

Moreover, the committee views the attitude of the Armed Forces commander as a "brutal reply to the reiterated protests by several sectors of society demanding unconditional compliance with constitutional rights as a basic premise to building a new democracy." [passage omitted]

In a statement published today, one of those named by Regalado, university professor Anibal Delgado Fiallos, commented that the only weapons he possesses are his ideas and his books. He added his belief that the accusations imply an "intention to kill me and other Hondurans who are struggling for a better society and a better country."

Briefs

New Military Intelligence Head

Colonel Roberto Nunez Montes has been confirmed as chief of military intelligence. [Summary] *[Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Feb 88 PA]*

Security Forces Chief Named

Colonel Leonel Aquiles Riera Lunnati has been confirmed in his post as commander general of the Public Security Force. [Summary] *[Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 2 Feb 88 p 29 PA]*

Nicaragua

Energy Official Discusses Fuel 'Shortfall'

PA091932 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2227 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 8 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua has only 420,000 tons of oil guaranteed until July, and it needs 345,000 tons to meet its priority needs and avoid rationing during 1988.

The was stated by Emilio Rappaccioli, director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE), who said the required oil can be obtained from other Latin American, African, and European countries.

Rappaccioli noted that the Nicaraguan Government obtained the 420,000 tons of oil it has in reserve—and which is expected to last until July—as follows: 300,000 tons from the USSR, its leading supplier, and 120,000 tons from Poland and East Germany. While officials seek to find various countries to cover the shortfall, the fuel shortage continues—albeit less seriously than in December—throughout the country, but especially in Managua, which consumes more than 50 percent of the fuel used. [passage omitted]

Rappaccioli expressed optimism and stated "it is possible" to obtain the required amount.

He told the press that in this regard, an agreement has been signed with Norway that includes the supply of some oil. However, he did not specify the amount involved.

Rappaccioli added that Nicaragua is also negotiating to purchase oil from Mexico both under and outside of the San Jose agreement, which was signed in August 1980 but later suspended due to the Nicaraguan Government's failure to pay $500 million it owed.

"Let us hope Nicaragua will manage to purchase this oil under other conditions stipulated by the San Jose agreement," he added.

The INE minister said 38,600 tons of oil are expected to arrive from the Soviet Union between 23-24 February, and that another shipment of oil by-products (gasoline and diesel) will arrive in March.

Contras Leave Part of Region 1 Without Power
PA081515 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] New terrorist operations left a large portion of Region 1 without electricity. Many townships and cities in the region—specifically, Condega, Somoto, Ocotal, and part of Esteli Department—have been without electricity since Sunday morning due to the destruction of an electric power transmission tower near the agricultural school in Esteli. The regional branch of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute reported that the damage is serious, and that it may take several days to restore electricity.

The mercenaries operate in the region in small groups of 5 to 12 persons and attack civilian and economic targets, Major William Montalvan, head of the 311th Brigade, stated. He noted that they are desperate, and this makes them even more dangerous.

Brooklyn Rivera on Peace Talks, Yatama Demands
PA080450 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Interview with Brooklyn Rivera, Yatama—Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole Organizations—leader by unidentified LA PRENSA reporter; date, place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Brooklyn, you are the only frontline leader who has been authorized to return to the country. How did you do this? Did you accept the amnesty, or were you given special guarantees?

[Rivera] I returned to the country following negotiations by Costa Rican Government and Moravian Church representatives with President Ortega. Nine members of our organization, who were accompanied by some U.S. advisers and members of other international organizations, have returned to Nicaragua. We did not accept the amnesty because, as Indians, accepting the amnesty would be the same as accepting the injustices the government has committed against our people. It would be accepting their abuses and the violation of the law.

[Reporter] What kind of abuses?

[Rivera] The massive destruction of our organizations. The Sandinist government has practically wiped out the Rio Coco area. The Sandinist government has carried out mass killings in that area; it has arrested hundreds of persons, and many others are missing. The government committed a series of abuses that it has now admitted to and describes as "mistakes." However, it has been a policy of acts of aggression against our people and their resistance, against our culture and our history.

[Reporter] How did you return without accepting the amnesty and without laying down your weapons?

[Rivera] That was one of the conditions for the first round of talks with the Sandinist government. In the beginning, the government did not want to accept, but they did so in the end.

[Reporter] It seems that some Yatama factions do not approve of your decision to return to the country; they have released a communique in which they reiterate their support for the resistance. What is your position on this?

[Rivera] I am not aware of that communique. The decision to return to the country was the result of an assembly. All the organizations participated in the assembly, and it was decided that [Steadman] Fagoth, [Wycliffe] Diego , and myself would return to the country. Personal reasons prevented Fagoth and Diego from making the trip.

[Reporter] What is your relationship with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]? Is there an alliance? We understand you have a vacant seat on the RN directorate.

[Rivera] There are some misunderstandings between us. Politically, they do not understand our views. They not only oppose the Sandinists, but they also do not seem to understand our demands. We are asking for rights over our territory, material resources, and culture, as well as real autonomy.

[Reporter] You are here because you believe the time has come for peace in Nicaragua, that it is no longer necessary to continue with the armed insurrection. Or, do you at least think that the armed insurrection is not the solution?

[Rivera] We are trying to find practical solutions, and we are holding talks to achieve substantial progress. We are looking for serious concessions. For us, it is not just a matter of ending the war, but it is something much more complex. We need to find political solutions to the coastal problems. There is a lot of mistrust of Sandinism on the coast.

[Reporter] What exactly have you come here to negotiate with the FSLN?

[Rivera] My visit is exploratory, although we did bring a proposal in an attempt to set the basis for future peace.

[Reporter] What is the proposal, and how are negotiations with the government progressing?

[Rivera] The talks with the government are very tense, but they are frank and direct. We are seeking an agreement concerning the collective possession of the territory, one in which our people will have true autonomy and where our historical problems will be respected.

[Reporter] How do you feel about the Autonomy Decree? Does it meet your demands concerning the coast?

[Rivera] The FSLN Autonomy Decree is not accepted by the coastal people. Yatama has its own proposal.

[Reporter] Will you demand that the decree be abolished?

[Rivera] No, not abolished, but brought to the people for consultation, so that the Indians can decide between the plans of the government and Yatama.

[Reporter] Why haven't the Indians accepted the government's plan?

[Rivera] Because this is a unilateral proposal. It does not represent a concession to the Indians, but instead has been imposed by the government, and it does not fulfill the Indians' aspirations. Their plan contemplates the creation of two new provinces governed by the Sandinists.

[Reporter] What other differences exist between your proposal and that of the government?

[Rivera] We ask to be allowed to administer the domestic affairs of the coast while remaining within the Nicaraguan state. We are neither separatists nor segregationists.

[Reporter] What is the true condition of Nicaragua's indigenous population? In your opinion, how many Indians are still homeless, how many are refugees, and how many are still fighting the Sandinist Army, and where?

[Rivera] We are fighting from Rio Coco to Bluefields. There are 2,200 men up in arms, and many are refugees in Costa Rica and Honduras. The coast continues to be a completely isolated area. There is no free access to communications media; there is a lack of information there. The government has a monopoly on everything and it denies what is really happening there, thus making it appear as if everything is peaceful there.

[Reporter] What is the real situation on the coast? How did it seem to you after all these years?

[Rivera] The truth is that the last time I was there was in 1984, to carry out a similar task. At that time, I traveled there with political and physical guarantees, the way I did this time. I have found that the situation has become extremely critical over the past 3 years. The people have nothing to eat, and they are really desperate. They see no solution in sight. I had a most impressive encounter with the people in those areas; they greeted me with enthusiasm, despite government obstacles. There was a spontaneous demonstration during which the people told me with tears in their eyes that they were dying of hunger and were suffering. It was most impressive.

[Reporter] To conclude, Brooklyn, after your talks with Borge, do you believe that the FSLN is really willing to work for peace, and that its members are sincere?

[Rivera] I believe that after the San Jose meeting, which many call Esquipulas III, the Sandinist government is trying to do something. It has moved in the direction of compliance, but amnesty and democratization are still pending. I think the situation is very sensitive.

[Reporter] Would you say the time for peace is at hand?

[Rivera] I believe this is a crucial year for our country. I do not believe this is a time to use rhetoric or to maintain inflexible positions. It is necessary to make positive contributions, which is why I am here. Peace is not unilateral, and the government must do its part.

PCN's Matamoros on Democratization Process

PA081439 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Report on interview with Silviano Matamoros, political secretary of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, PCN, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given]

[Text] PCN Political Secretary Silviano Matamoros has said that the people will fight for their freedom and will see to it that their rights are respected. Commenting on the Nicaraguan situation, Matamoros noted that people will be the main actors in the struggle for Nicaragua's freedom and its true democratization.

Matamoros declared that Ortega does not want to democratize the country, and thus is not interested in complying with the agreements signed by the Central American presidents. He added that, nevertheless, the opposition parties will tirelessly demand compliance with the accords that will enable Nicaraguans to achieve the greatly hoped for democratization. Here is Matamoros' statement for this newscast:

[Begin recording] [Matamoros] I am not a bit surprised by the position Commander Ortega has taken. In reality, his stand has always been the same: denying the people their right to freedom and to exercise democracy in Nicaragua. Many parties that years ago supported the FSLN in good faith have realized, as time goes by, that the rhetoric and demagoguery the Sandinist leaders use have not brought democracy to Nicaragua. Today, the parties that were once the FSLN's allies and which at that time believed the government's actions were democratic, have now realized that these actions were not enough, and that the FSLN was lying. Those parties have now joined the rest of the parties that have always thought that democracy did not arrive in Nicaragua in 1979, as all Nicaraguans had believed.

I am therefore not surprised by what Commander Ortega said last night. Before the elections and all the bragging, we stated that they never intended to comply with the Esquipulas agreement. Acting as judges, they have said that they are complying with the Esquipulas accords, because—according to them—they have complied. However, the truth is that there has been no amnesty here, and political parties

still cannot exercise complete freedom of the press. We also have not been permitted to open a new television station. Therefore, we do not see the democratization that the commander claims is taking place.

In reality, the Nicaraguan people are anxious for freedom, and they will continue struggling for their rights. At no time have we been satisfied with what they term compliance with the Esquipulas agreement. We will demand democracy, and nothing less than democracy.

Even though they will have no excuse—because war will no longer be a problem since aid for the contras was not approved—they will continue to use this [the war] as an excuse to postpone implementing the democratization process in Nicaragua.

I therefore believe Commander Ortega has never been and never will be willing to carry out a process of democratization in Nicaragua. They have brought their Marxist-Leninist project, they have tried to impose it, they have found obstacles—and will keep finding many more obstacles—they will walk over many dead bodies, and they will never be able to make Nicaragua a communist country.

The party I represent is involved in not only an ideological struggle. We will prepare our party organization in such a way that the people will understand the PCN will attain power, because the Sandinists are doing what is necessary to lose power.

[Reporter] Now that the U.S. Congress rejected further aid for the counterrevolutionaries, what types of mechanisms can be used to institute a true democracy in Nicaragua, within the framework of the Nicaraguan civic opposition?

[Matamoros] The civic opposition has done its share, but the main actors will be the people. The people will become aware that their participation in Nicaragua's democratization process is extremely important and essential. The people are the ones who suffer the consequences of the government's disaster; the people are the ones who suffer from the lack of freedom; and the people are the ones who suffer all the restrictions imposed by this government. The people ultimately will do away with a government that has been unable to provide a happy and decent existence for Nicaraguans. [end recording]

Panama

Noriega Urges Struggle Against 'Castration'

PA092216 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2114 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, at the Washington Hotel in Colon—live]

[Text] We are grateful to all my friends from Colon present here and to the government officials, businessmen, and people of Colon who have come here today to sing Happy Birthday to me. We thank them all. I also thank the honorable Colon Municipal Council for the decoration it gave us. We accept it with respect and affection.

Here in Colon, we reassert our dignity, because Colon was also attacked on 9 January; because Colon also suffered and suffers the suffocation caused by the territory that has not been returned to Panama. The areas that have not yet been returned to Panama are the cause of the conflict and the reason why they wish to remain in Panama. [crowd shouts: "There is no doubt they are leaving;" "Long live the PRD! [Democratic Revolutionary Party]"]

The hour of dignity has come, regardless of the price we must pay for it. The hour of dignity has arrived, and I will be here at any cost. This is not the time to be frightened or intimidated. Here, before the courageous and brave people of Colon, whose history is one of struggle, virility, and reality, we say: This struggle is so the future generation will be free and sovereign. This is a struggle to achieve the development of our people, to avoid the amputation of part of our nation, and to avoid mental, moral, and material castration.

People of Colon, thank you very much. We reiterate our stand. Today, like yesterday, Colon and this commander shout: Not one step backward! [crowd shouts: "Not one step backward!"] [applause]

Addresses Health Workers

PA100428 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0224 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, to health workers at the Interchina Restaurant in Panama City—live]

[Text] I thank all the companeros of the health sector for inviting me to this large birthday celebration they have organized. Last night, we met in Veraguas with representatives from Cocle, Los Santos, Herrera, and Chiriqui. I was in Colon today, and now I am here with the brothers of the health sector in Panama City. [Applause] We will be in Chiriqui tomorrow, and in Panama City again the day after tomorrow. We will continue to visit each neighborhood, each corregimiento, and each place where our presence is required.

Gentlemen: Above all, we appreciate the presence here of all foreign correspondents. [laughter, applause, cheers] We appreciate the presence of photographers. [people chant: "Let them tell the truth!"] Companeros, the problem is that they do not speak Spanish. [crowd shouts] This is why they cannot tell the truth.

The problem is that it is not their fault, because their editors belong to the group that is waging a psychological war against Panama. There is a plan of aggression against Panama, and I have not yet seen, during all these days of flashing lights and so many photographs, any article that

says the Panamanian people are repeating the words-...what are those words? [people chant repeatedly: "Not a single step backward!"] and that... [people interrupt, chant repeatedly: "Undoubtedly, they are leaving!"] Panamanians should be convinced—because we are in a Panamanian domestic event, a family event, a gathering of friends—that the plan of aggression includes disinformation. We are totally convinced and saturated with the fact that part of the first phase of this plot is disinformation. Disinformation includes slander, lies, confusion, and shameful acts to make us lower our guard and our virile, moral defenses. This commander, however, will not lower his guard. [applause and chants: "Noriega, friend, the people are with you!"]

I was born near the boat landing, close to the public market. I learned to fight with the gangs of the 2 January Plaza. Therefore, I know how to fight. [applause]

Like any of those of us who represent the social class that today holds the aristocracy of talent, like you, the men who are here [applause], this is the only aristocracy we respect: the aristocracy of talent; the men who are what they are today not by climbing over others but by climbing on their own intellectual abilities. That is the prestige of this revolution and this process. This process may have all kinds of mistakes, but one thing makes it great, proud, powerful, and superior: the fact that the son of the teacher, the cook, the cleaning woman, the lottery vendor... [interrupted by audience chanting: "A united people will never be defeated!"] that the son of the peasant, the workers, the poor, and the Indian had the capacity to reach a place and climb positions from which they will never be removed. [audience continues shouting: "The dogs are barking, but Noriega is roaring!" and "Let's get a plane for the sedition!"]

Men who have reached positions such as Dr Allen [applause, cheers], as those sitting at this table [applause], they want me to mention women [Noriega laughs]. People such as Dr Ilka Viejo of the Social Security Institute [applause], as well as Balbina Perinan [applause], Drs Sanchez, Luna, and many others [applause]; those representatives of a social class, of a specific color but who are members of an absolute majority, they will not be removed from power [applause].

Gentlemen, aggression against the Republic of Panama is a reality, and it also causes fear within our ranks. This is because those who did not learn to fight on the streets of Santa Ana, El Chorrillo, El Maranon, Plaza Amador, and in neighborhoods where one needs to fight, or in the countryside of the Republic [Noriega chuckles], cause fear. [sentence as heard]

Gentlemen, the aggression is totally real. A plan to weaken a government and a process to make it yield is a reality. They need men, positions, organizations, and governments that will yield. You may ask: Yield what? Yield the fatherland's dignity; yield the economic realities [as heard]. That is why we are facing an economic cordon. This is why they are trying to confuse our friendly forces by claiming that the solution is that we bend our knees. [audience chants: "Never, never on our knees;" unidentified man shouts: "Standing upright or dead," and audience replies: "Never on our knees;" audience shouts: "Not one step backward!"]

Yes, gentlemen, aggression is real, because we are, mathematically speaking—I repeat—at a time when we can yield.[sentence as heard] In 1995, 1996, and 1993 we will have alert generations that will make a regressive count of the withdrawal of the last foreign soldier from this territory. [applause]

You know this, this is your area of knowledge, but I will use this metaphor: You know diseases must undergo an incubation period before a crisis is produced. This is the incubation period to produce a crisis sometime in the 1990's, because viruses undergo metamorphic processes; and this is the time to incubate them. Tomorrow, they will have another life regime. That is why, mathematically speaking, a weak government is needed today, weak men are needed today, men who say yes, the yes man [previous two words in English] are needed today.

And all those who have said no, all those who have assumed a dignified position are the ones they want to execute [ajusticiar]. They want to execute them because they want to teach Latin America a lesson: no one else can raise a voice of dignity, patriotism, courage, or struggle.

This is why I will quote the words that a great Argentine leader told me: In Panama, the last battle for Latin American dignity and the process of Latin American recovery is being waged. [applause]

Many people believe that the problem concerning the U.S. bases is fictitious or a fabrication. The problem of the U.S. bases is real. The problem of the U.S. bases is real. [Noriega repeats himself] The problem of the U.S. bases is real, completely real. The problem of their presence and their use of areas is real. We are tangibly seeing it. Within the framework of this struggle for their exit and for reversion [of the land and facilities], reality is also in their hands. Why do they not give us the Gorgas Hospital then? [crowd shouts, applauds] Why are they denying Panamanian health authorities a medical installation in front of the National Institute High School? This medical installation must belong to the Republic of Panama and the Ministry of Health. [applause]

Why are they using the hospital on the Atlantic side as bachelor quarters when it was a hospital? What does this prove? This proves that we are facing unfriendly, ill-willed, and arrogant attitudes. We have presented just demands that are strengthened by our right to fight and make demands. The health sector has not been left out of the Republic of Panama's plans for positive social development. The health sector has not been left out. That is why our community plans include you—and this is not politicking—and why we consider you our brothers. We respect you as professionals engaged in the struggle

against hunger, poverty, and diseases through your medical assistance visits. [applause] That is why they attack you; that is why they attack the medical assistance visits, even if this criticism harms the health of the people. However, that social side of medicine is more of a human than a Christian nature. The oligarchic groups and the people who support the old oligarchies want to hinder this social service, because they despise the abandoned and poor lower classes.

We believe, as Panamanians, that only the Panamanian people should participate in this political struggle. The struggle cannot be tainted by foreign interference; that is what we demand here today. Let the Panamanians solve Panamanian problems. The economic crisis demands a lot of goodwill and intelligence, not a lot of dependence! [applause]

We have had to face contradictions caused by economic demands. In 1970, 1971, and 1972, we created the financial center here in Panama after Washington recommended it and imposed it on us. We created the banking center because this was convenient for the United States, just as it is now convenient for the United States to destroy that banking center.

Similarly, in the times of crisis, after 1977, 1978, 1979, and up to 1980, they recommended to General Torrijos what they referred to as the emergency payroll and the appointment of public employees to maintain social stability. Now, they say we must fire them. What a contradiction. In view of these contradictions, then, the Panamanian state cannot be subjected to the dependence of economic advisers and centers of power that see to their own needs and logic, and according to which the use of force is a priority.

In conclusion, we state that the act of aggression against Panama is real aggression. The aggression against Panama includes the economic sector but most of all, the health of the Panamanian people. In that battle, you are committed in your status as soldiers in the health sector.

We cannot accept, under any circumstances, solutions that go against the dignity of the Panamanian people. We cannot accept, under any circumstances, doctrines that are imposed and that make us targets for powerful enemies. We are a peaceful nation. We are a people who have fought for Central American peace. We have used our diplomatic and military men, and we are proud that this has stopped the bloodshed in Nicaragua. That is the account. That is the bill I am paying, and that we are all paying. [applause]

From a Christian viewpoint, I am satisfied. I feel encouraged and honored that an atom in the great infinity of the world is the target of the great colossus of the north. How many men, how many papers, and how many millions of dollars do they need to put an end to this man, who is a Panamanian and who will not stop being a Panamanian? [applause]

Suit Filed on U.S. Southern Command Presence

PA091856 Panama City Radio America in Spanish 1749 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report by Victor de la Hoz]

[Text] Dr Juan Materno Vasquez [prominent lawyer involved in negotiation of the Panama Canal treaties and active in the Democratic Revolutionary Party, [PRD] filed suit this morning requesting that the presence of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama be declared unconstitutional. The suit was filed at the Supreme Court of Justice's General Secretariat.

The lawsuit is based on certain U.S. Government activities in the Republic of Panama, and on notes exchanged on other agreements with the United States.

[Begin Vasquez recording] The suit I filed this morning at the Supreme Court of Justice's Secretariat is to declare unconstitutional the so-called agreement that allows the United States to carry out some other activities in Panamanian territory. In addition, we are requesting the annulment of Article 4 of the canal treaty which deals with the protection and defense of the canal and specifically legalizes the presence of the U.S. Southern Command. We are also requesting that approximately seven notes previously exchanged be declared unconstitutional. The aforementioned notes are also international agreements and we believe—according to our investigations and evidence—they were signed by people who were not empowered to carry out those acts involving international law. [end recording]

Lawyer Terms Presence 'Legal'

PA101522 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 88 p 1

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Juan Materno Vasquez, a lawyer, has stated that the presence of the Southern Command here is legal since it is provided for in the agreements annexed to the canal treaty.

The former member of the progovernment PRD added that as long as the Supreme Court fails to declare those agreements to be unconstitutional, they remain in effect, and that a mere declaration by the Panamanian Government cannot invalidate them.

The lawyer made these statements after presenting a suit to have the Supreme Court of Justice issue a ruling on the agreements that cover certain U.S. activities in Panama, and on the exchange of notes regarding other accords with that nation.

Vasquez noted that those agreements concern matters that lie outside the context of the canal treaties. Therefore, they should have been approved, negotiated, and signed by persons competent to do so, as provided for by the Panamanian Constitution and international law.

He added that none of those who signed the agreements—Aristides Royo, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, and Gabriel Lewis Galindo—were empowered to do so.

Annexed agreements should be presented to the legislative branch for approval, but this has not been done, the former president of the Supreme Court of Justice added.

As for the lawsuit that he presented to the Secretariat of the Supreme Court of Justice, Materno Vasquez stated that if the highest court of justice dares to rule that the accords are unconstitutional, and if the United States rejects that ruling, Panama would then have to ask the International Court of Justice at the Hague to demand compliance.

Vasquez believes that Royo and Bethancourt should explain why the agreements that legalize the presence of the U.S. military in Panama were signed. This "contradiction" must be explained, he declared. When asked about the present stand of the PRD on this matter, Juan Materno Vasquez replied that the members of that party are "educated parrots."

Foreign Ministry Communique on Situation

PA092002 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Feb 88 pp 30, 25

["Communique to the country" issued by Foreign Ministry officials in Panama City on 5 February]

[Text] We, the Foreign Ministry officials, held a special meeting on 5 February in view of the new and systematic aggression the U.S. Government has launched, and we are hereby informing the people of situations they should know about. In so doing, we will uncover the truth about what provoked the so-called Panamanian political crisis.

Chronology of an Intervention [subhead]

The manipulation of the U.S. media through the introduction of anti-Panamanian reports involving key Panamanian political figures to influence the people's opinion began in 1985. In this phase of the plan, the main objective was to provoke repudiation and rejection of the government and the Panama Defense Forces by Panamanians and Americans.

In 1986, the United States accelerated the verbal subversion against Panama by starting an antigovernment propaganda campaign to activate public opinion and to transform it into an insurrectional mobilization with paralyzing economic effects.

The arguments used for this were the following:

1. Political corrosion.

2. The absence of democracy and a lack of public freedom.

3. To create panic and uncertainty in the financial center.

4. To show Panama as an enemy of the United States.

In November 1987, the U.S. Congress issued legislation called "1987 Law on Democracy in Panama" to domestically legitimize the economic blockade against Panama.

During the second half of 1987, the United States developed the practical phase of their plan, financing operations, covertly at first, such as the economic aid boycott, and after that overtly, such as the financing of the Civic Crusade, actions all aimed at subverting institutional order and stability through confrontation with the people.

In 1988, the U.S. goal was to definitively shatter Panama's economy, leading to the overthrow of legally appointed authorities and the dismantling of the Defense Forces. Specific Intervention Goals [subhead]

1. Gen Noriega rejected any possibility of altering the contents and compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

2. Gen Noriega insisted on keeping the Defense Forces on the side of the great peasant, worker, and student majorities, as well as on the side of the most needy social sectors.

3. Gen Noriega firmly backed efforts by the Contadora and Support Groups in the Central American conflict.

4. Gen Noriega rejected heading a policy of domestic changes to align Panama with U.S. policy toward Central America.

5. The United States was against Panamanian policy that considers the soldier as the people in uniform, and the United States considered intolerable the Defense Forces' participation in the country's domestic problems.

6. When the Defense Forces rejected the decision of the United States to replace Noriega because he did not acquiese to U.S. national security or political interests, Noriega was accused of exercising absolute power.

Because of the above, these U.S. actions against Panama are aimed at forcing a change in government in favor of U.S. hegemonic policy, allowing the conditions to change the terms established in the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

It is within this context that the United States is using all its power to overthrow the government before the 1989 democratic elections, which the government is determined to carry out.

At the same time, the oligarchic sectors linked to U.S. interests, through the facade of the Civic Crusade, seek to sow uncertainty and political chaos to create the conditions that will cause an internal division in the FDP, principal guarantors of the continuation of the decolonization process.

Economically, the U.S. actions against our country are designed to create internal rifts to accelerate the crisis.

We denounce that as part of this policy to weaken the national economy, the Panama Canal Commission has been inflating its budget to prevent Panama from receiving the profits that it should get according to the provisions of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties of 1977.

We firmly support the national government and the FDP, as well as its efforts, and we appeal to the community in general to remain on a state of alert to safeguard our nationalist reaffirmation struggle, to face the threats of the United States and its internal allies who seek to halt the process of decolonization.

THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION IS HISTORICALLY IRREVERSIBLE AND NOTHING AND NO ONE CAN STOP IT [all capital letters as published]

Given in Panama on 5 February 1988.

AND HUNDREDS MORE SIGNATURES FOLLOW [all capital letters as published]

Announces Progovernment Rally

PA100223 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry officials will hold an event of nationalist reaffirmation to support Panamanian diplomatic activity in the face of the U.S. pressure on Panama.

The Foreign Ministry officials, through their political committee, will hold an event of nationalist reaffirmation in front of the Foreign Ministry building tomorrow.

Roberto Montanes, leader of the Foreign Ministry's political committee, stated the following on this matter:

[Begin recording] We are organizing a patriotic event of nationalist reaffirmation to reject this new campaign that is hovering over our country. This campaign is a threat to our sovereignty. In addition, we support the statement issued by the mid-level officers of the Defense Forces on the need to remove or dismantle the U.S. Southern Command, which is stationed here illegally. This command goes against what was established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry officials said they will support the efforts of Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias to have the United States respect the canal treaties and to find a diplomatic solution to the tense relations between Panama and the U.S. Government.

[Begin Montanes recording] The Foreign Ministry officials will be present at this event and will support any position taken by our foreign minister that aims to expel these troops. These forces occupy our country in exaggerated numbers and are there for reasons other than those established in the treaties. We believe the Panama Defense Forces are the only army that should be protecting the canal. [end recording]

Legislator Scores U.S. 'Lies' About Noriega

PA092133 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report by Eduardo Martinez]

[Text] Nationalist leaders cannot permit the existence of Latin American governments manipulated by foreign powers. This statement was made by Legislator Pedro Brin Martinez, president of the National Assembly's Panama Canal Affairs Committee, in referring to the slander campaign against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Defense Forces commander in chief.

The Darien Province legislator said the trial against Noriega is political. Noriega's only crime is to have defended the fatherland's dignity and to have maintained public order, as the Constitution demands.

Commenting on the reasons why Gen Noriega is being attacked by U.S. groups, Brin Martinez said:

[Begin recording] We know Gen Noriega has received immoral proposals from U.S. leaders, especially when Poindexter was in Panama and wanted to involve Gen Noriega in an invasion in Central America and in efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

This has caused conflict. It has irritated the giant to the north, which does not understand how a small country, a general from such a small country, and a Defense Force, a government, and a party such as the Democratic Revolutionary Party from such a small country do not yield and, instead, have been strongly criticizing the use of Panamanian territory to train people who will invade other lands, especially sister Latin American countries.

We have to stand firm, because if we accepted the removal of Gen Noriega, from that moment on we would be subordinated to U.S. decisions. The only result of the national liberation struggle that began in 1903 would be some chains, the chains that we would be putting on ourselves.

In view of this, we have to assume a patriotic attitude. This is not a matter that involves just Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. This is a matter that concerns the

country, the Republic, and the Panamanian people. We have noticed that the economic aggression is punishing the people more than it is punishing Gen Noriega, the government, or the government leaders. It is the people who need economic resources, who face increasing unemployment, who are going hungry, who need schools, and who cannot solve their health problems. It is the people who have road problems. This year the Public Works Ministry has not been able to open roads for peasants wanting to take their products to town. The Health Ministry has not been able to drill wells or build aqueducts because the United States has not been satisfied with denying trade, economic, and mutual assistance agreements. It has exerted pressure on other countries and on international organizations to have them withdraw all sorts of aid from Panama, aid that should be expected from states that provide economic assistance to all the states of the world.

I believe the United States is playing the most ridiculous role any country could ever play, especially because the United States calls itself the bastion of democracy. It claims that Panama does not have a democracy and that it has a dictatorship, oppression, and militarism. [end recording]

Regarding the U.S. Senate's decision to accept statements from persons involved in drug trafficking, Pedro Brin Martinez said:

[Begin recording] We all know that in the United States the Mafia's economic power is greater than that of the state and that U.S. politics are governed, to a great extent, by people who control economic power. In that country everything works on the basis of economic power. Convicted Mafia members now are being used to tell lies about Gen Noriega because they—the U.S. Mafia, the drug interests in the United States—would benefit from lowered vigilance against drug trafficking in Panama. They would love to have a Panama Defense Forces commander willing to open borders and airports so drugs could easily be sent to the United States and willing to let Panama become a laboratory producing drugs to be sent to the United States.

The Mafia will do anything to have this come true. They have so much power—and this has been said on U.S. television, in books, and by other media—that they run U.S. prisons and control prisoners. It is very easy to make deals with these people and to reduce their sentences, give them money, and release them as long as they contribute to such a disgraceful action. [end recording]

Blandon 'Willing' To Return To Give Evidence

PA100023 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 88 p 1

[Article by Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda]

[Text] Jose Isabel Blandon, former Panamanian consul general in New York and up to a few months ago adviser to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, said today that the attorney general should start an investigation of the charges made against Gen Noriega.

Blandon, who spoke to LA PRENSA over the telephone, said this investigation should focus on the following: Dr Hugo Spadafora's murder, the murder of General Ruben Dario Paredes' son, the charges that Noriega was paid so the Medellin cartel could set up a laboratory in Darien, the charges that Noriega used Panama's international financial institutions for laundering money, and the many charges made against Noriega and the military men and civilians involved in these cases.

Blandon said he was willing to give the attorney general photographs, documents, and cassettes and to testify himself about the illegal activities Noriega and a group of civilians and military men have been carrying out.

According to Blandon, for this to happen, the attorney general has to guarantee his personal security and to detain and temporarily remove the accused from their posts.

It is not possible for the attorney general to be interested in chasing witnesses to a criminal act instead of chasing the criminal; this makes no legal sense, Blandon said in reference to the letter Gen Noriega sent Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz telling him he should "begin an investigation to determine the origin of and those responsible for the slander so they can be tried according to Panamanian law."

Blandon said: I am willing to return to Panama the moment the attorney general can guarantee my personal security and the removal from power of those involved so they cannot use their power to prevent a trial.

Blandon proposed that initially the attorney general send an authorized official to a place in the United States Blandon would choose and take his preliminary statement.

Blandon asserted: "As a Panamanian, and aware of my civic duty, I do not fear any investigation." He added that the attorney general should start the investigation by determining what assets the accused have, and he said:

"I ask the Panamanian banks to list my bank accounts and what property I own. I invite Gen Noriega and Mr Purcell to list their assets and to state what salaries they earn.

"Unlike Noriega, I, Jose Blandon, have neither received payments from the CIA, nor been pressured by anyone, nor received payments from any U.S. or other foreign agency. My behavior has always been within the law.

"I have no fear, but I want to guarantee that a trial takes place in Panama. It should be not a trial of the witnesses but of the accused," Blandon said, adding that it is unbelievable that after so many accusations, the attorney general has to wait for a letter from the Defense Forces commander to carry out an investigation. Blandon continued:

"I challenge the attorney general to carry out as thorough an investigation as it has been said he will hold, because I have sufficient evidence to back the things I have said. And if this is not enough, there is additional evidence presented by others.

"I am not a criminal, I am not a thief, and I believe the Panamanian people know what is true and what is a lie. I believe Noriega should think of the Panamanian people's suffering, instead of doing arrogant things and pretending to be a nationalist. I have participated in meetings where he has proposed intervening in Nicaragua.

"I believe the attorney general and the president are in a situation in which they should define their positions, not as individuals but as those in charge of justice." Blandon ends by saying the attorney general should send a lawyer to talk with him to learn of the seriousness of the problem.

PRD Leader Discusses Current Situation

PA092309 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Feb 88

["Analysis of the Panamanian Situation" by Nils Castro, a leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Party, PRD]

[Excerpts] We are being subjected to a powerful campaign domestically and, especially, internationally—a campaign of slander and falsification of the Panamanian reality. One must not believe that this phenomenon is either accidental, or purely local; it is a manifestation of an international plan that is much greater in scope. To be more precise, in 1983, President Reagan made a statement to the British Parliament in London in which he announced the initiation of a war to control minds and turn them toward democracy—or what he conceives as democracy. He obviously was speaking seriously, because at roughly the same time, a special office for controlling public opinion was established in the White House. It encompassed, and continues to encompass, much more than a simple press office. It is actually a powerful project with a large budget and an enormous technical staff for the purpose of manipulating the press in the United States and other Western nations.

Thus, the series of phenomena that we have seen, such as allegedly secret—and obviously false—documents from the national security office, documents that are leaked to the press to produce false situations to fool the U.S. and international public. It is a campaign to lie, lie, and lie some more, as can be seen in the productions and false documents used in the campaigns of lies against Grenada, to justify the invasion of that country. That was a demonstration of force that was not intended to control Grenada, but instead to greatly impress the region. The campaign of lies can be seen in the campaign concerning Libya; the campaign against Nicaragua. In the last case, the campaign went so far as to attribute false declarations to sovereign states in the region, as recently happened with Guatemalan President Cerezo. He was said to have made statements of alleged support for financial aid to the contras, statements in fact that he had never made. After that came the refusal to publish President Cerezo's explanation of or reply to that shameful accusation. This has been accompanied by barefaced violations of international law, violations that have used these falsifications to justify a disregard for international law and the sovereignty of other countries under a smokescreen of lies.

The U.S. public was finally to see the truth, to better uncover the deceptions with the uncovering of the Iran-contra scandal. That scandal revealed that the White House had deceived not only the people, but also the Congress. It is in this context that the campaign against Panama, which we are observing daily, began. It is a campaign to denigrate us, to give a false, monstrous image of our country, our people, and our officials; and to thereby isolate us internationally so as to better strike at us.

This has a lengthy background that stretches back even prior to the creation of the special White House office for controlling public opinion. We clearly remember the campaigns that began in 1973—not just against General Torrijos, but also against our authorities and our people—concerning the topic of renegotiating the canal treaties. However, under the immoral system of government that we now have in Washington, that campaign has been flagrantly intensified, especially since 1985. [passage omitted]

What interests are being pursued in this effort to falsify documents and deceive the U.S. and international public about what is happening in Panama? What Admiral Poindexter demanded at that point—I repeat, in late 1985—clearly demonstrates what were the objectives of the United States. This is because Poindexter at that time demanded that Panamanian officials abandon the Contadora effort to pacify Central America; that Panama either not remain a part of Contadora or tone down its activities, to pave the way for the Reagan administration's policy of aggression against the Central American states and of intervention in Latin American countries. [passage omitted]

In this regard, much is revealed by a statement Gene John Galvin [former commander of the U.S. Southern Command] made to the Madrid newspaper EL PAIS roughly 1 year ago. In that interview, which Galvin asked EL PAIS to conduct at the time he was about to be transferred from the Southern Command, Galvin discussed European matters. However, he also mentioned a proposal that I consider essential to understanding the basis for the U.S. attitude at this time. At that time, Galvin proposed to hand over the canal to Panama 10 years ahead of time—in 1990—in exchange for Panama's agreement to allow the United States to keep its military bases for 15 or 25 more years, until 2015 or 2025. This demonstrates that they want to maintain the colonial military enclave in our country.

What does the U.S. Administration need, and why has it resorted to this campaign of forgeries, deception, lies, slander, and humiliation against our country and our officials? They need to set up in Panama a government and officals that will agree to joint ventures or to get involved in warmongering ventures in Central America. They basically want a government that will agree to renegotiate the U.S. military presence in Panama, to extend it under terms that are more destructive and harmful to Panamanian sovereignty. They need a de facto government that is docile on the outside and repressive on the inside. What does this mean? They want a government that is on its knees before the United States and which accepts that sort of renegotiation, one that also represses the Panamanian people to make them submit, to keep them from protesting the sale of our sovereignty and the fatherland itself. They need a government that negotiates with the United States and that keeps the Panamanian people from rejecting the negotiations and their results. That is what a de facto government or a government outside the Constitution is.

And so we enter into the heart of the current politi situation in Panama. Why do we find some adventur under the guise of the so-called National Civic Crusa preaching that there should not be elections in 1989, a that there should be a coup d'etat now? The legitimacy Panama's Constitution is not being questioned by ar one. Let us recall that it was not only approved by majority in 1972, but it was also endorsed in 19 through a vote to approve some amendments. T nation's opposition and right-wing parties support that Constitution. Although the Constitution is com pletely legitimate, there is talk of a coup d'etat t appoint—not to elect—to appoint a junta to draft a ne constitution. This constitution would be flagrantly illegitimate and would be at the service of a de facto government born of a coup.

What is the purpose of this? To have democratization? It makes one laugh to think that these men truly want to democratize the government. Instead, they are not proposing elections but rather a coup d'etat to install a de facto government, and to replace the legitimate constitution with one drafted by a group of people amenable to a coup. The evidence is clear. If one follows the behavior of the Christian Democratic International in Central America and the Caribbean, and especially of the most reactionary members of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]—which has its headquarters in Caracas and in the COPEI—the facts are very clear. To whom has the PDC appealed to in the Dominican Republic? To Joaquin Balaguer. He was Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's closest aide. Now Balaguer has become the leader of the Dominican Social Christian Reformist Party. To whom has the PDC appealed in Central America? To the repressive Salvadoran regime of Napoleon Duarte. [passage omitted]

What is the PDC proposing to Panama? Since its last convention, the PDC has been hinting at the need for a change of government, but not through constitutional means or elections. They based this call on what they term a true democracy. This true democracy reminds me of Reagan's idea of democracy that he expressed before the British Parliament in 1983. What they may understand by democracy has been imposed by followers of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo in the Dominican Republic, followers of the U.S. military in El Salvador, and followers of the Ton Ton Macoutes in Haiti.

Therefore, the goal is something we mentioned earlier. The United States wants to install a de facto government, or one that is outside of the Constitution and capable of controlling the people when the extension and expansion of the U.S. military presence is renegotiated. Moreover, they do not only need this. To implement a project such as the one to involve us in foreign wars or selling parts of our fatherland, our people's nationalist spirit must be destroyed. National culture, nationalist feelings, and the very nation itself must be destroyed. In sum, it is necessary to turn this country into another Puerto Rico. This is why they need the support of unpatriotic groups. We have seen these groups manipulate innocent people or even committed people in the streets in recent months. They need the support of native unpatriotic groups, whom we cannot even call Panamanians. They need these unpatriotic native groups to stage a coup, to repress the people, to sell the fatherland, and to destroy our nationalist and patriotic people.

For that reason, when all of us face this situation—which does not involve only Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, but all Panamanians—we defend the Panamanian nation. We defend the very existence of the nation. This is a call to defend the fatherland. The fatherland has the historic right to exist, a right beyond all interests and life itself. Each citizen therefore has the duty to reject the plan for a coup as repressive and unpatriotic. All of us are entitled to live as a nation.

Government Closing of Media Protested

PA091618 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 88 p 1-a

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The efforts to silence the media and control the free expression of thoughts are always indicators of deep problems. When a government resorts to closing the media because it is able to impose its political will by force, it is showing its biggest weakness: it is wrong. In Panama we have the sad situation of a government determined to close newspapers and radio stations with the vain purpose of preventing people from learning about the political crisis and, particularly, the serious charges filed against FDP [Panama Defense Forces] officials and people allied with the FDP.

Those who believe arbitrary measures such as closing EL SIGLO, Radio KW Continente, Radio Exitosa, and Radio Chiriqui will make Panamanians withdraw their support of the National Civic Crusade's moralizing

effort are very wrong. It has taken a long time to confirm to the world what all Panamanians already knew, and we will now insist that justice prevail and those responsible for so many abuses, corruption and a large variety of criminal acts be legally condemned.

Public opinion with its inexorable judgment has already condemned them. The media that are now closed will soon start working and will join the Crusade's campaign to tidy up the Republic and enforce the laws, justice, democracy, and human rights. This is the Panamanian people's desire. We hereby state our protest of the abuses and arbitrary and illegal acts perpetrated against the closed media and we denounce to the world these new dictatorial outrages that violate all principles of freedom of expression.

REUTER Agency Faces Libel, Slander Suit

PA100117 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Feb 88 pp 40, D-8

[Text] REUTER faces a legal suit in Panama City's Third Circuit Court for alleged violations of the penal code and the new libel and slander law.

According to reports, a Panamanian professional feels insulted by some reports attributed to this news agency.

The REUTER general manager in Panama City had to appear before the Third Circuit Court on 7 January because of the charges brought by an electrical engineer. The REUTER manager read a six-page statement in which he admitted, among other things, that the reports were disseminated under his responsibility as general manager of the international news agency.

The court continues to hear the case against the news agency.

This is the first time a case against an international news agency has been presented in Panamanian courts since the new libel and slander law took effect. We await with interest the results of the application of this new law that has created so much interest among Panamanians, particularly among journalists.

Argentina

Rico Writes From Prison, Scores Government

PY100233 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2124 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (DYN)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico today sent a long document that he had written at the Magdalena Military Prison to his "colleagues and fellow citizens." In this document, Rico outlined his political and military ideology and affirmed that "Operation Dignity" is still in effect.

In the 8-page handwritten document, Rico admitted that he had made a mistake by starting the January uprising and explained that he surrendered without fighting because "we expected to see other enemies through the sights of our rifles," not "lieutenants and sergeants."

Rico delivered the document to relatives who visited him at Magdalena Prison in the past 2 weeks, and DYN obtained a copy. According to Rico the current institutional government "will not find a solution to the military issue," and "Operation Dignity is not dead." He also predicted "conflicts within the Armed Forces."

Rico also accused the current government of advocating "an ideological position aimed at destroying the Armed Forces, which is furthered by the complacent and yielding attitude of the general staffs of the branches."

Rico stressed "the strong need to belong to an Army that can support a consistent plan for the country, an Army that can be integrated into the other sectors of society, an Army made up of soldiers who realize that the dignity of their profession has been recognized and who are satisfied with the performance of their duties." He then asked: "Are the aspirations of a doctor or a construction worker so different?"

Rico stated he advocates "a state built upon freedom and human dignity, in which men are not defenseless in an overgrown state—which has a socialist structure despite our Constitution—a state that seeks to do everything."

He added that being committed to "Western culture and religion does not mean being subservient to the industrialized nations of the West. It means fighting—as was done in the past—all attempts to impose a dictatorship of a collective or Marxist type in our fatherland, the fatherland of Argentines."

He added: "If this means I am a fundamentalist, then indeed I am."

He also reasserted that the military judges involved in his case were pressured by the Army staff and added that "these pressures went so far as to demand my retirement and that of Lieutenant Colonel (Enrique) Venturino if I wanted to avoid imprisonment and qualify for a preventive imprisonment that could later be commuted to house arrest. All this implies a clear abuse of authority."

After asking, "Why was there no fighting at Monte Caseros?" he responded: "The reason is simple: we hoped we would fight a different enemy on the other side."

Rico added: "Operation Dignity, which is essentially an expression of love for our comrades, could not continue or be implemented at the expense of the death of lieutenants and sergeants."

He asserted that "at any rate, the events of January are the result of mistakes made by the protagonists," and that "I let myself be carried away by the provocations and arbitrary measures" of Army authorities.

Rico asserted: "I let my impatience carry me away."

After charging that the government "is the illegitimate offspring of the Social Democratic Party and the IMF's errand boy," and "it is upholding an unclear and worrisome ideological profile and is the initiator and promoter of a policy of aggression against the Armed Forces," Rico stated that General Jose Caridi, the Army chief of staff, is "alone" in the government and in "a society that is overwhelmed by its own personal problems. The society is unmoved and unable to react because it is being subjected to a policy of acculturation, of instilling an alien ideology, of impoverishment, of plundering, and of degradation that has been implemented by a government that has allied itself with a sector of the leadership of the main opposition party, thus implementing an amoral and unpatriotic collusion."

Rico added that we have "an Armed Forces unhappy and in a state of upheaval, an Armed Forces that may experience the aftershocks of the January events."

After justifying what was done in the struggle against subversion, Rico stated that "the Alfonsin government will not resolve the military issue" because "this issue is a great ideological burden for him."

He added that "the Armed Forces must recover their military honor," which he believes "is tied to the vindication of the war against subversion."

Rico stated that "Operation Dignity is not dead," and "despite the fact that it stumbled, it is still in effect because it represents deep feelings within the Army."

Rico added that the Army's situation "should be no surprise to anyone" because "this is an Argentine Army" that is not made up of "foreign military officers" but of "full-blooded Argentines," and that since "the Army is part of the society it represents" this means "it is the entire society that is ailing," because it is "the Argentine citizen who is disillusioned and tired of failures."

Rico asserted, finally, that "whatever my situation and whatever degree of freedom I enjoy, I will always be committed to and struggle for my fatherland, the Army, and my comrades."

Paraguay

Laino Holds News Conference in Buenos Aires

Views Stroessner, Elections

PY090255 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0207 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (TELAM)—Domingo Laino, the leader of the Paraguayan Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], tonight affirmed that his party supports abstention in the fraudulent elections to be held 14 February in Paraguay, and he stressed that Ronald Reagan has realized Paraguayan President Stroessner is not good for anyone at this time, and this is why he is in favor of a political transition without violence.

Laino gave a news conference at a teashop in this capital (at the corner of Lavalle and Maipu Streets) to discuss his country's political situation. He was accompanied by the leaders of other Paraguayan oposition parties: Luis Andrada Nogues (Christian Democratic Party) and Luis Alfonso Resck (Febrerista Revolutionary Party) [party affiliation as received].

Laino said voting in his country is obligatory, but he nonetheless has asked his party not to vote in the elections, in order to reject the fraudulent elections prepared by dictator Stroessner. The Paraguayan Christian Democratic Party and the Febrerista Revolutionary Party endorse casting a blank ballot instead.

Laino also said he had met in Washington with Robert Gelbard, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for South America. On that occasion Gelbard showed interest in expressed concern about the Paraguayan situation and agreed with Laino on holding a meeting with other Paraguayan opposition politicians.

Domingo Laino added that he knew Robert Gelbard was in Buenos Aires, reportedly to meet with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. However, he did not say whether he and the other Paraguayan opposition politicians would meet with the U.S. official in the next few hours.

Further on Gelbard Meeting

PY092032 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 9 Feb 88 p 10

[Text] PLRA President Domingo Laino said that Robert Gelbard, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for South America, who ranks third among U.S. foreign affairs officials, has met with National Accord leaders in Buenos Aires.

Laino explained that "at the U.S. ambassador's residence, National Accord founder Professor Luis Alfonso Resck; Jaime Ortiz, who was recently elected vice president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party; Luis Manuel Andrada Nogues, Christian Democratic Party secretary general; and I met with no one less than Robert Gelbard, third in charge of U.S. diplomacy." Laino made this statement to Radio Caritas from Buenos Aires.

"Gelbard was kind enough to meet with us for more than 1 hour at the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Buenos Aires to address several U.S.-Paraguayan political issues. The agenda included the elections scheduled for 14 February, the transition to pluralistic democracy, and the serious damage that illegal commerce and those who operate outside the law cause to several nations of the continent," Laino said.

"Dr Gelbard expressed a very important opinion when he said U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay Clyde Taylor was really too diplomatic when he said Paraguayan-U.S. relations are normal but with some potholes. Gelbard said bilateral relations are not good now, stressed that relations have recently deteriorated, and added that the United States will maintain its willingness—something that it has been doing for the past few years—to help the transition to democracy both in Chile and Paraguay," Laino said.